

VOCATIONAL CHOICES OF UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR CASTE AND GENDER

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ABSTRACT

The present research was conducted on undergraduate students to analyze their Vocational Choices in relation to gender and caste. For the purpose a sample of 500 (250 male and 250 female) undergraduate students was selected from the various degree colleges of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi by using semi-probability sampling techniques. Career Preferences Record constructed by Vivek Bhargava and Rajshree Bhargava was used to collect the data. Results revealed that there is no significant difference in the mean of various dimensions of vocational choices of the male and female undergraduate students. Undergraduate students belong to all caste category have same level of vocational choices except agriculture field.

In this informative age where globalization and fast scientific and technology developments are taking place, the students are facing manifold challenges in their career and its selection. To choose right career in accordance with his/her abilities, interest, skills and academic achievements one has to perform the maximum possible degree of satisfaction. Therefore, one should be very serious while planning the base of individual's life long career and his or her social recognition.

Choices play an important role in every one's life because they determine to a large extent, what one will do and how well one will do it. A choice is a learned motive, which drives to the person to occupy himself with an activity when he is free to choose what he will do. A wish is a temporary choice, while it lasts, it may be as strong as, or even stronger than, as choice,

but because it gives only temporary satisfaction, it wanes in strength very rapidly. True choices are more persistent because they satisfy a need in the individual's life.

Choices are important because they serve as a source of strong motivation to learn. Choices add enjoyment to every one's life. If one is choice in carrying out a require activity the experiences will be for more enjoyable than if he is forced to carry it out inspite of lack of choice. Choices are closely related to likes and dislikes and are markedly influenced by them.

Vocational choices are the backbone of the individual and community at large. Vocational choices affect the individual as well as the community. A well chosen vocational spells in happiness to the individual, to family and to the community at large. The investigator, has selected this highly significant variable for further study, because she has richer experience, and safely comment, that one vocational is water - shed down which the rest of ones life tends to follow. In every real sense, he / she chosen a line when he / she chosen a vocation. In fact proper choice of the vocation is also the choice of the way of life. Moreover, vocation is not merely a means of earning a livelihood but also a way of life.

A vocational choice is a response it is always a verbal response. An individual, always designates his / her selection of an occupation symbolically, since he / she can't, physically choose a vocation as he / she can other things. As a verbal response, an individual's vocational choice is an observable change in his / her behavior. When an individual makes a vocational choice, he / she considers what his / her probable occupation will be, not what his / her possible occupations might be. His / her choice expresses his / her appraisal of his / her chances of entering an occupation and of being well adjusted in it.

But still, before moving ahead to check the pupil's competencies, it is important to know their perceptions about themselves with respect to their knowledge, attitude, skills and interest in various fields. Thus, the investigator decided to study the vocational choices of undergraduate students in relation to their gender and caste.

OBJECTIVES

1. To compare the vocational choices of male and female under graduate students.
2. To compare the vocational choices of under graduate students belongs to various caste groups.

HYPOTHESES

1. There exists no significant difference in vocational choices between male and female under graduate students.
2. There exists no significant difference in vocational choices among undergraduate students of various Caste groups.

METHOD

The researcher employed the “Descriptive Survey method”.

SAMPLE

A sample of 500 (250 male and 250 female) undergraduate students was selected from the various degree colleges of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi by using semi-probability sampling techniques.

TOOL

In order to collect relevant data the Career Preferences Record constructed by Vivek Bhargava and Rajshree Bhargava was used.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

For the analysis of the data the Mean, Standard Deviation, CR test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL CHOICES OF MALE AND FEMALE PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

In order to study the effect of gender on the vocational choices of under graduate students, male and female under graduate students were compared on the basis of their vocational choices. The results obtained are presented in the table given below :

Table 1 - Mean, SD and CR Values of various dimensions of Vocational choices of male and female undergraduate students

DIMENSIONS OF VOCATIONAL CHOICES	GROUPS	N	M	SD	CR	df	p
Mass Media and Journalism	MALE	250	7.476	4.106	0.032	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	7.488	4.269			
Artistic and Designing	MALE	250	8.280	4.334	0.080	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	8.312	4.572			
Science and technology	MALE	250	8.052	4.656	0.292	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	8.172	4.527			
Agriculture	MALE	250	5.532	3.980	0.011	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	5.528	3.904			
Commerce and Management	MALE	250	6.844	3.898	0.411	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	6.700	3.927			
Medical	MALE	250	5.708	4.501	1.407	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	5.164	4.134			
Defense	MALE	250	6.688	4.041	0.055	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	6.708	4.142			
Tourism & Hospitality Industry	MALE	250	6.928	4.161	0.389	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	6.784	4.122			
Law and Order	MALE	250	9.696	4.698	0.357	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	9.544	4.810			
Education	MALE	250	10.480	4.255	1.661	498	>.05
	FEMALE	250	9.860	4.092			

The obtained results shown in the above table clearly depicts that the various dimensions of vocational choices are not affected by the gender of the undergraduate students. The undergraduate students either male or female are found same on their vocational choices, because the mean difference of the scores of the various dimensions of the vocational choices between two groups is not found statistically significant even at .05 level of confidence.

When the two groups i.e. male and female undergraduate students were compared on the various dimensions of vocational choices, it is observable that the two groups did not differ significant on the various dimensions of vocational choices. As all the CR values for different dimensions are insignificant even at .05 level of confidence for 498df. This shows that the gender i.e. male and female of the undergraduate students do not cause significant variation on the vocational choices. Thus the null hypothesis that “*there exists no significant difference in vocational choices between male and female under graduate students*” is accepted.

2. COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL CHOICES OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AMONG VARIOUS CASTE GROUPS

To compare the vocational choices of under graduate students of various caste groups i.e. GEN, OBC and SC, the researcher has applied Analysis of Variance. The summary of ANOVA is presented in the table-2 given below.

Table - 2 Summary of ANOVA for various Caste groups on various dimensions of vocational choices

DIMENSIONS OF VOCATIONAL CHOICES		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
Mass Media and Journalism	Between Groups	57.77	2	28.88	1.654	>.05
	Within Groups	8679.07	497	17.46		
Artistic and Designing	Between Groups	31.64	2	15.82	0.798	>.05
	Within Groups	9850.55	497	19.82		
Science and technology	Between Groups	55.15	2	27.58	1.312	>.05
	Within Groups	10448.57	497	21.02		

Agriculture	Between Groups	110.11	2	55.05	3.587	<.05
	Within Groups	7628.44	497	15.35		
Commerce and Management	Between Groups	16.98	2	8.49	0.555	>.05
	Within Groups	7609.03	497	15.31		
Medical	Between Groups	32.52	2	16.26	0.869	>.05
	Within Groups	9304.43	497	18.72		
Defense	Between Groups	41.85	2	20.92	1.254	>.05
	Within Groups	8295.55	497	16.69		
Tourism & Hospitality Industry	Between Groups	55.12	2	27.56	1.614	>.05
	Within Groups	8488.52	497	17.08		
Law and Order	Between Groups	6.49	2	3.24	0.143	>.05
	Within Groups	11253.32	497	22.64		
Education	Between Groups	10.76	2	5.38	0.307	>.05
	Within Groups	8715.79	497	17.54		

It is clear from table-2 that F values of various dimensions of vocational choices of the GEN, OBC and SC caste groups indicate no significant difference between the three groups except Agriculture field and thus the related null hypothesis is partially accepted.

The obtained results indicate that the caste background of the under graduate students do not cause any significant variation in the vocational choices.

CONCLUSIONS

The various dimensions of vocational choices are not affected by the gender of the undergraduate students. The undergraduate students either male or female are found same on their vocational choices. When the two groups i.e. male and female undergraduate students were compared on the various dimensions of vocational choices, it is observable that the two groups did not differ significant on the various dimensions of vocational choices.

The F values of various dimensions of vocational choices of the GEN, OBC and SC caste groups indicate no significant difference between the three groups except Agriculture field. The results indicate that the caste background of the under graduate students do not cause any significant variation in the vocational choices.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The findings have important implications for the Psychology and Education of under graduate students particularly with regard to vocational choices.

One thing, that is clearly brought out, by the study is that the S.C. group of students of graduate classes are different to their majority counter parts with regard to vocational choices. In spite of the protection provided to them by the government, they have not yet come, at part, with the Non-S.C. Castes. This has to be subjected to further intensive research, and it found confirmed steps have to be taken into consideration while preparing welfare policies for the S.C. communities students. May be the various welfare schemes are required to be extended and intensified. However, if further research shows that the levels of vocational choices and emotional intelligence of the students of S.C. Communities are not raised inspite of the facilities provided, revision of existing policies may be imperative.

The subject of the study is of vital concern to psycho-sociologists and educators. The study has certain other implications of major importance as follows:

The S.C. Communities students, as a separate group made themselves not fully benefited by the governmental opportunities and facilities. Even after 55 years, their differences as compared to Non-S.C. group of students on cognitive and personality characteristics have not reduced. It is quite clear that either the implementation of the welfare schemes, opportunities and facilities to these S.C. class students is defective or they need still more facilities to reduce their differences while the concept of equalization of opportunities in this context is reconsidered. The fact remains that these backward class students of S.C. group have not, generally been able to derive the benefits of the facilities and opportunities. The government has to face this challenge and make some realistic efforts to minimize the gap existing even today, between these two groups.

As regards the Vocational choices, students should be encouraged to develop manual labour. Vocational choices and self-employment channels, not simply carving for white-collar jobs only. This mismatch of job opportunities and resources, while leading towards unemployment must be checked.

Finally, the following implications may be suggested on the basis of the findings of the current study :

1. Findings of this research may help to understand the influences of gender and caste on vocational choices.
2. It will serve as resource materials for others who want to carry out research in emerging areas of Career Counselling.
3. The investigator hopes that sharing the results with parents, counsellors, teachers and others will increase awareness regarding the need of career counselling.
4. Organization of special workshops for parents on career decision making is recommended.
5. This study will be valuable in helping students to cope with career indecision problem.
6. With these findings it will be possible to find similarities and differences in the results between this study and any other one.
7. Policy Implications - The present study would provide a framework of knowledge regarding the impact of psychological and biographical factors on career development behaviour. This knowledge can help in developing National Policy dealing with career development issue.
8. Training Implications- These findings would be helpful in providing the parameters for the systematic training of individuals who provide career counselling service.

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